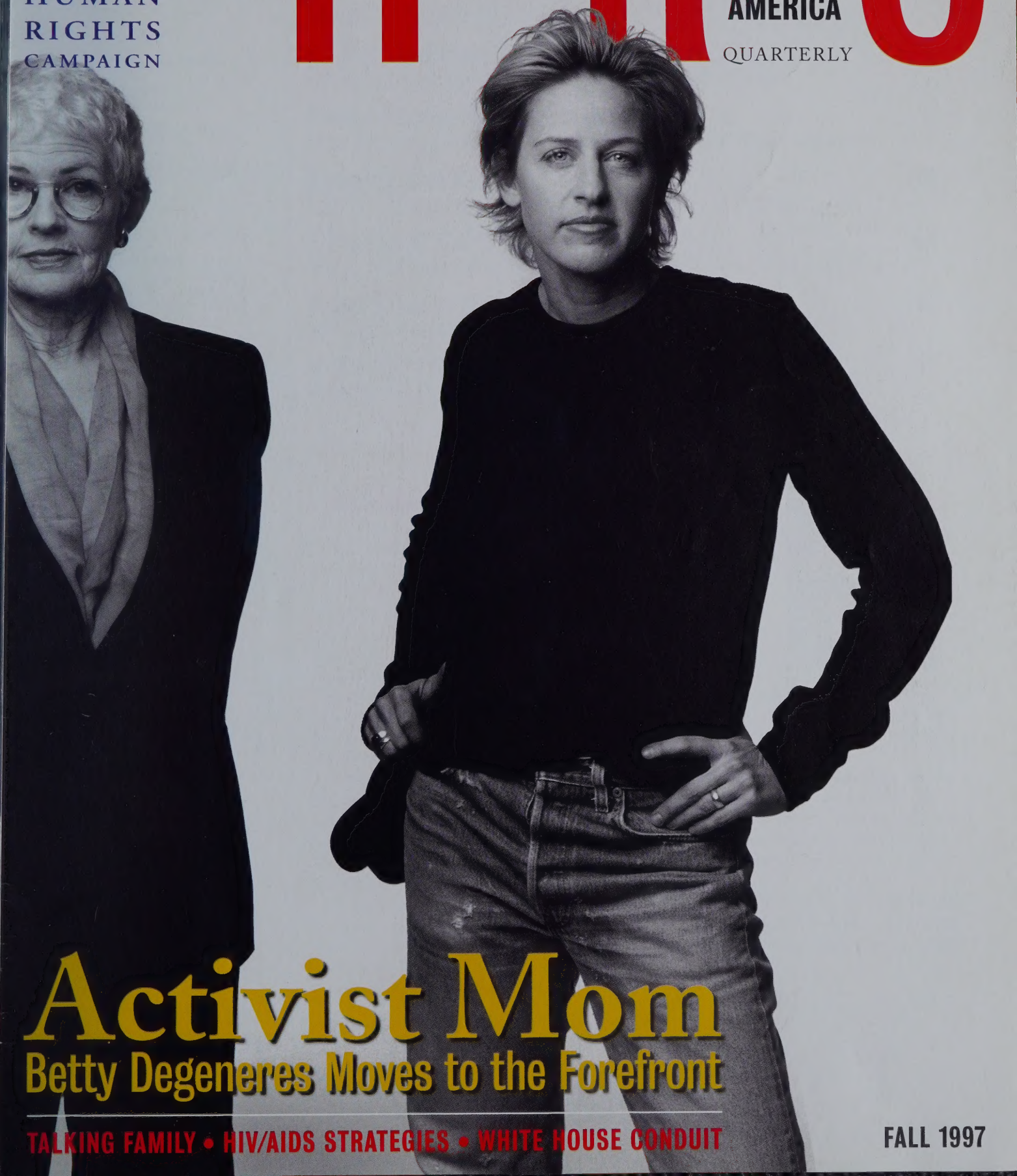
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

HRC

POLITICAL NEWS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICA

QUARTERLY



Activist Mom

Betty Degeneres Moves to the Forefront

TALKING FAMILY • HIV/AIDS STRATEGIES • WHITE HOUSE CONDUIT

FALL 1997

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HRC QUARTERLY

Table of Contents

All Our Children 4
How to talk about our families in ways America understands

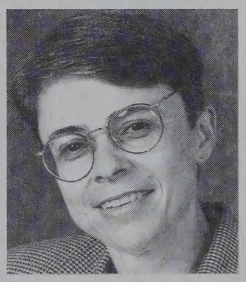
Cover Story: Heeeere's Betty! 6
Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, is new National Coming Out spokeswoman

Keeping the Faith 8
Religious support for ENDA continues to grow

A Pound of Cure 14
Why we aren't more effectively employing HIV/AIDS prevention strategies

Point Man in the White House 16
How Richard Socarides got Bill Clinton's ear

If We Ain't Broke, Don't 'Fix' Us 17
The American Psychological Association's views on 'reparative' therapy



Kim I. Mills

There's a Yiddish word for the kind of pride that makes you tingle and tear up: To *kvell*. We at HRC are collectively *kvelling* over the fact that Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, has become our National Coming Out Project spokeswoman for 1997-98. And when world-renowned photographer Annie Liebowitz lent us the wonderful cover photo of mother and daughter, we *kvelled* some more. We are enormously proud that Betty DeGeneres has agreed to spend the next year working with HRC to deliver the important message that parents must love and support their lesbian and gay children, and that lesbian and gay children must keep the door open to their families.

Speaking of families, in this issue of HRC Quarterly, Mark Penn and Bernard Whitman of Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates Inc. report on more groundbreaking polling conducted for the Human Rights Campaign, this time on the issue of lesbian and gay families. The information gleaned will help our community talk about these issues in ways Americans can understand.

Andre Alexander, HRC's financial manager, reports on the results of our most ambitious fiscal year ever. And National Association of People with AIDS' Mike Shriver and Professor Thomas J. Coates make an impassioned argument for better using the HIV and AIDS prevention strategies already at our disposal. Other pieces look at the growing support among people of faith for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and how the American Psychological Association views the controversial practice of "conversion" or "reparative" therapy.

We are also pleased to announce in this issue that HRC's legislative team is at full strength with the hiring of two new senior policy advocates, and that we have returned to a unified political department, with the legislative team and political action committee merged under the stewardship of Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

As always, we welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Kim I. Mills
HRC Communications Deputy Director
kim.mills@hrc.org

UpFront

News From Washington and the Nation • **House Ejects B–1 Bob**

Hawaiian Political Activist Joins HRC as Organizer Fighting for Equality

Dr. Jackie Young, a former Hawaii state legislator and the first woman to hold the position of vice speaker in the Hawaii House of Representatives, has joined the Human Rights Campaign to explore options to protect Hawaii's state constitution from attack by religious political extremists.

Young, who has a long history of community and civil rights activism in Hawaii, will work with community leaders and activists statewide to explore and develop options to preserve Hawaii's constitutional protections against discrimination, which are threatened by the religious right.

"We are incredibly fortunate to be working with Jackie Young, who is a respected figure in Hawaii politics," said Donna Red Wing, HRC's national field director. "She brings the kind of expertise and knowledge about state and local government that this campaign requires."

Young has been a public administrator, educator, state legislator and most recently, an author. She is affiliated with a multitude of professional and community service organizations and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

"Hawaii's multicultural society has suffered from past onslaughts to diminish the rights of its people, from the treatment of indigenous Hawaiians since the overthrow of their government in 1893, to the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II and discrimination against Asian and Pacific Islanders in employment, education and housing," says Young. "Now we face this intolerant and discriminatory attack on gays and lesbians. The upcoming vote on a constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage places this battle at the cutting edge of civil rights issues in Hawaii today."

In addition to her work for HRC, Young has produced her own television series for Asian markets and is a frequent guest host of "*Asian America*," a syndicated Public Broadcasting System program produced in New York. She is an adjunct professor at Hawaii Pacific University, where she has co-developed and taught courses in culture and communication; race, gender and ethnicity in the workplace; and the study of women and men.

Shut-Up, Bob: House Ejects B-1 Bob from Chamber Indefinitely

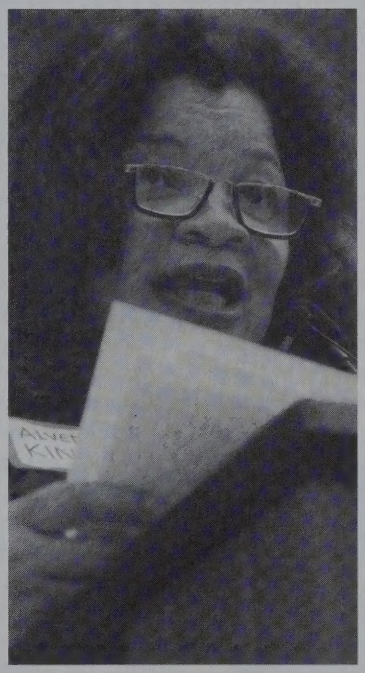
BOB DORNAN, THE CONTRARIAN REPUBLICAN OUSTED FROM CONGRESS by Southern California voters last year, has been eighty-sixed from his old stomping ground: The floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. On Sept. 18 — a day after he called Rep. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., a liar and a coward without religious commitment — the House voted 289-65 to bar Dornan from the House floor until his challenge of the November election is completed. Democrat Loretta Sanchez defeated Dornan last year by 984 votes. Since then, a congressional committee has been investigating the disputed election while the unemployed Dornan has spent his time bad-mouthing Sanchez wherever he goes.

"Those of us who were victimized by Bob Dornan's hateful rhetoric on the House floor and off are gratified that this extremist has lost his floor privileges," HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said after the vote to bar Dornan. "Bob Dornan has abused virtually every power ever given him by the voters of Southern California, which is ultimately why they decided to take them away."

In the meantime, Dornan was hoping his former House colleagues would void Sanchez' victory and call for a special election. But if that were to happen, it's possible Dornan would be pressured by his own party to stay out of the race. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that an internal GOP poll in September found that if a rematch were held, Dornan would lose.

An Uncourtly King

A NIECE OF THE LATE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. has departed from her family's history of fairness to disparage the quest for lesbian and gay equality. At a sparsely attended rally she called in August in Sacramento, Calif., Alveda King asserted that the gay rights movement has nothing in common with the fight for civil rights for African Americans. "No one is enslaving homosexuals ... or making them sit in the back of the bus," King said. She invoked her uncle's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, claiming he would not have supported civil rights legislation that included sexual orientation — ignoring the assertion of King himself that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In addition, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, has spoken in support of equal rights for gays and lesbians and testified at the original introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.



Black gay leaders were quick to challenge Alveda King's remarks. Keith Boykin, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, accused King of misrepresenting her uncle's views and of allowing herself and her organization to be "manipulated by the white religious right that wants to divide the black community based on sexual orientation." King, who is founder and chief executive officer of a conservative group she calls King for America, was a speaker at the Christian Coalition's "Congress on Racial Justice and Reconciliation" in Baltimore in July.

King, who used to go by the name Alveda King Beal, was a Georgia Democratic state representative from 1978-82. She ran a failed campaign for the U.S. House in 1984 against then-Rep. Wyche Fowler, D-Ga., and is now running for Atlanta City Council. Although she now espouses a range of conservative views, she was once a strong advocate of Georgia's equal rights amendment for women, and invoked her uncle's name in defense of that position, too.

And The Winners Are...

APRIL 30 WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR THE millions of Americans who watched "*Ellen*" come out on national TV. But a few other members of the Human Rights Campaign have an extra reason to mark that as a red-letter date in their diaries. They were the winners of the HRC drawing for trips to Hollywood to see a taping of the "*Ellen*" show.

Anne Morillon of Columbia, Md., was at HRC's "*Ellen*" coming out party at Washington's Capitol City Brewing Company when she learned her name had been selected. Morillon was on a first date that night. Clearly things worked out. Morillon tells HRC that she and the date, Kyle Velte, will share the prize trip.

Deborah Larson and Laurie Hicks of Albuquerque, N.M., were in New Orleans that night, on a trip to see some of Hicks' former medical school friends. Larson, a real estate broker, was the lucky winner. The couple planned to fly to Los Angeles for a taping in November.

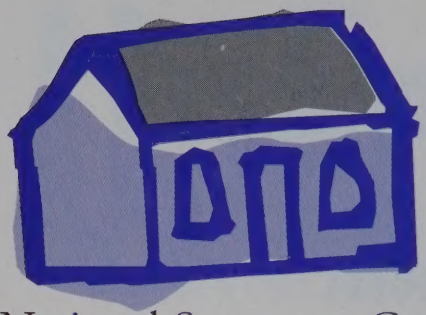
Equality

Through Workplace Giving

Choose the Human Right Campaign Foundation #0441 in the Combined Federal Campaign or United Way Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is committed to advancing its vision of an America where lesbian and gay people are ensured of their basic rights. This vision is made tangible by the foundation's education and research in the critical area of HIV/AIDS, and by its development of projects such as the Lesbian Health Project, the National Coming Out Project, WorkNet and the national field program.

Make A Difference
Come Out Contributing
#0441



Family Matters

National Survey on Gay Family Issues Will Help Inform the Debate

By Mark J. Penn & Bernard A. Whitman

More than ever, gay and lesbian Americans are having families with children, who become part of these families in many ways. Institutions on the extreme right try to frame gay family issues only in terms of adoption, where there is a perception that gay men and lesbians are vulnerable. New research shows that even on that topic, there are key messages that resonate with the country.

"The issue of adoption is best decided by parents and professionals on a case-by-case basis, not by politicians or the government." So say the American people, according to a public opinion survey conducted in August by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign. In this groundbreaking study of 812 registered voters across the United States, we found Americans do not want to see Congress, state legislatures or bureaucrats making broad rules and regulations about who should and should not be able to adopt children.

Americans categorically reject the notion that the government should take a greater role in deciding who can and cannot adopt children, with 74 percent saying we should keep the system we currently have, rather than allow the government to take a greater role (19 percent). More than three-quarters of voters (78 percent) believe that the issue of gay men and lesbians adopting children should be decided on a case-by-case basis rather than by the federal (10 percent) or state (8 percent) government. And nearly four in five (79 percent) think the issue of gays and lesbians adopting children should be decided by parents and professionals rather than by judges (9 percent) or politicians (3 percent).

Voters do not want to make adoptions by single gays and lesbians illegal. More than half (55 percent) would oppose a law that would prevent gay men or lesbians from adopting children, and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) oppose making joint adoption among gay and lesbian couples illegal.

Fundamentally, Americans do not see the issue of gay adoption as a "rights" issue. In fact, by a margin of five to one, voters overwhelmingly tell us that adoption is not a right (19 percent) at all but a privilege (81 percent). Thus, the issue is not one of comparing heterosexuals' "right" to adopt children to homosexuals' "right"— few Americans believe that such a right exists. For either side to view this battle as a rights issue completely misses the point.

Instead, voters are looking for a rational discussion about parenting skills and the best interests of the child, not an emotional debate over sexual orientation. The majority of Americans believe that prospective parents should be judged more on their parenting skills than on their sexual orientation. Nearly three in five voters (59 percent) say that people should not be disqualified from becoming parents solely on the basis of their sexual orientation, and 54 percent think that sexual orientation should not be the primary factor in deciding if a person is fit to be a parent. In fact, only one in three (34 percent) cite sexual orientation as "extremely important" in deciding whether or not a person is a fit parent, the same percentage who cited "financial security."

Moreover, voters reject the notion that gays cannot be good parents. A total of 52 percent strongly agree that gays and lesbians can be just as good parents as heterosexuals, and 56 percent believe gay men and lesbians should be allowed to be parents.

But as we have seen before with issues involving gays and lesbians, opinions are fluid and subject to shift by providing people with true information or, conversely, by appealing to their fears, misconceptions and homophobia. In discussing this issue, the gay and lesbian community

SUPPORT FOR SINGLE GAY ADOPTION TENDS TO BE HIGHER AMONG:

- **Women (45 percent)**
- **Younger voters, age 18-34 (47 percent)**
- **Those making less than $35,000 per year (48 percent)**
- **City and suburban residents (47 percent)**
- **Democrats (52 percent)**
- **Independents (46 percent)**

Americans categorically reject the notion that the government should take a greater role in deciding who can and cannot adopt children.

should stick to the facts, and avoid the polarizing rhetoric of "rights," however justified, that has consumed so many recent efforts. When the issue of gay adoption arises, gays and lesbians and their supporters must clearly and calmly demonstrate the facts of the matter to the community at large — particularly the tens of millions of married couples living in the suburbs raising kids of their own.

By communicating these points in the short term, the gay and lesbian community has an excellent opportunity to build support for adoption. But the data strongly suggest that the real key to acceptance and equality lies in educating the public about what it's really like to be gay. We asked a series of questions concerning people's general beliefs about gays and lesbians and then examined the effect of these opinions on support for gay adoption. The finding is overwhelmingly clear: Americans who are better informed and have a more accurate picture of lesbians and gays generally are far more likely to be supportive.

Thus, it becomes increasingly clear that in addition to meeting today's challenges — whether it be adoption, employment discrimination or hate crimes — gays and lesbians as individuals and as a community must recommit themselves to dispelling the long-running myths and misconceptions about what it is to be gay or lesbian. It is only through such a long-term educational effort — friend to friend, neighbor to neighbor, parent to parent — that gays and lesbians will achieve true equality. ■

Penn is a founding partner of Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates. Whitman is executive vice president of Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates.

THE FACTS OF THE MATTER

- Today, more than 500,000 children living in foster care or institutions need loving homes.
- Numerous studies have shown gay and lesbian parents possess just as good parenting skills as heterosexual parents.
- Studies have shown that children raised by gay or lesbian parents are no more likely to grow up gay or lesbian than other children.
- Studies by the American Psychological Association show that gay and lesbian parents provide good, loving homes for children.
- Research reveals that children adopted by homosexual parents lead just as healthy and productive lives as children adopted by heterosexual parents.
- Single gay men and lesbians are becoming parents through adoption in 48 out of the 50 states.

AND SECOND PARENT ADOPTION:

- Ensures that the adopted child can receive health benefits from both of his or her parents.
- Gives the child greater financial security.
- Increases stability in the child's life by establishing a legal relationship between the child and his or her parents.

The Power of a Mother's Voice

Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's Mom,

WHEN ELLEN DEGENERES came out to the country last spring, not only did she change her life, she changed that of her mother. Suddenly, the camera was trained on Betty DeGeneres, and she spoke from the heart about her love for Ellen, and the pride she feels for both her children (Ellen has an older brother, Vance, a television writer and musician).

"After the interview on ABC with Diane Sawyer last April, people stopped me on the street or in stores and told me how their daughter or son was gay," Betty DeGeneres recalls. "And gay people came up to me as well, to let me know that they wished their parents could be as accepting as I was. That was when I realized that I, too, could make a difference in the lives of gay people and their families."

Betty DeGeneres approached the "*Ellen*" show's casting director, Tammy Billik, who is a good friend of HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. DeGeneres wanted to get in touch with the Human Rights Campaign so she could get more involved in educating America about lesbian and gay issues.

"She was looking for a way to be helpful, so we brought her to Washington to visit our offices and meet the staff," Birch says. "She spent three days here and it was love at first sight — for all of us. She was a natural for the role of National Coming Our Project spokeswoman."

In September, HRC announced Betty DeGeneres' new role. *People* magazine profiled Betty in its Sept. 15 issue, and she has already appeared on "*Entertainment Tonight*" and "*The Ricki Lake Show*" — but that's only the beginning. For the next year, she will travel the country, speaking at HRC events and community functions, to the media and on college campuses about the need for the parents of lesbians and gay men to come out and support their children.

"As long as our gay sons and daughters face discrimination and are excluded from the basic protection of our laws, I will urge all American families to come out for fairness," says DeGeneres. "I am thrilled at this wonderful opportunity to talk with gay and straight Americans about the importance of coming out."

In addition, Betty will be featured in television public service announcements, the first of which is being produced by Out There, an organization of lesbian and gay entertainment industry professionals. The group is producing the spot at virtually no cost, arranging for most of the components of the production to be donated.

"We want to help HRC get Betty's message to as many people as possible," says Lesli Klainberg, a board member of Out There. "We are pleased to be able to use our resources to make this project a reality."

DeGeneres is the sixth person — and first heterosexual — to act as HRC's National Coming Out Project spokesperson. In October, HRC and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation co-hosted a reception in which the former NCOP spokespeople ceremonially passed the torch to Betty DeGeneres.

NATIONAL COMING OUT PROJECT

The National Coming Out Project grew out of National Coming Out Day, a commemoration of the 1987 march on Washington for lesbian and gay equal rights. The concept of a day devoted to coming out arose at a meeting of lesbian and gay leadfers in Virginia in February 1988. The first National Coming Our Day, Oct. 11, 1988, was chaired by Jean O'Leary, former executive director of National Gay Rights Advocates, and the late Rob Eichberg, founder of The Experience and author of Coming Out: An Act of Love.

Originally headquartered in Santa Fe, N.M., NCOD was established as an independent non-profit, tax-exempt national organization. Lynn Sheppodd, now a member of HRC's board of governors, was its first executive director. In February 1993, NCOD merged with the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund in a move aimed at strengthening the organization. NCOD grew to become the National Coming Out Project, a year-round effort to encourage people to live open, honest lives.

To Tour U.S. as National Coming Out Spokeswoman

By Kim I. Mills

"It was a heartwarming occasion and a wonderful opportunity to again thank all the HRC National Coming Out spokespeople," said David M. Smith, HRC's communications director and senior strategist, who is overseeing HRC's work with DeGeneres. "In today's celebrity-driven media environment, these remarkable people have blazed a trail for others to follow."

Betty DeGeneres was born in 1930 in New Orleans. She attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge for two years before marrying Elliott DeGeneres in 1952. They had two children, Vance and Ellen, in 1954 and 1958, respectively. After 18 years of marriage, Betty and Elliott DeGeneres divorced. Betty remarried shortly thereafter, and moved to Atlanta, Texas, a town of 6,000 in the eastern part of the state. "It was culture shock for Ellen, who was a junior in high school," Betty DeGeneres recalls.

Betty continued her studies, taking night courses at Texarkana College, 25 miles away. "At that point, I had so many course hours I had to settle on a major so I chose speech pathology," she says. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at LSU in Shreveport.

Betty and her husband moved to Tyler, Texas, when she was hired as a speech pathologist at a local hospital. In 1990, she and her husband separated. By then, Ellen and Vance were making names for themselves in the entertainment world. To be closer to both of them, Betty took a job in the Los Angeles area as a speech therapist for developmentally disabled adults. After a year, she joined the staff of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as a speech therapist. She retired after three years but continues to work at Cedars-Sinai on an as-needed basis.

When Ellen DeGeneres got her own TV show in 1993, Betty DeGeneres made her show-biz debut doing two promotional commercials before the program premiered. She also appeared in a promotional spot on Comedy Central. And Betty DeGeneres appears every now and then in the background of the "*Ellen*" show. "I'm like 'Where's Waldo,'" she jokes.

In her free time, Betty DeGeneres does yoga, plays golf and goes bike riding about once a week with Ellen's TV mom, actress Alice Hirson.

Earlier this year, Betty DeGeneres had signed with an agent and began auditioning for commercials with hopes of building her own career. However, she has put aside these plans for this opportunity "to make a difference and open some minds and hearts," she says.

"I'm so proud of what my mother is doing," says Ellen DeGeneres. "She has been a source of love and strength for me and for Anne. We are thrilled that she is sharing these qualities with others, and carrying the message that parents should love and support their gay children." ■

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRIAGHT ALLIES

Jackie Larner of Denver, another straight ally of the movement for lesbian and gay equal rights, says she admires what Betty DeGeneres is doing. "My coming out as a straight ally began in 1992 when voters in Colorado passed Amendment 2," she says. "I am a wife of 19 years and the mother of two children who were then very young and I could not stand silent while the religious political extremists claimed that my 'traditional family' was being destroyed by laws to protect others from being kicked out of their homes, fired from their jobs or worse because of their sexual orientation."

Larner says she hopes Betty DeGeneres will inspire not only parents of gays but other straight people to stand up and fight, just as she did, and continues to do. "Listening sympathetically is not enough. We must respond, and speak out for justice and equality for all Americans."

ON THE ROAD: Betty DeGeneres (right) discusses coming out on KARE-TV in Minneapolis.

Faithful Friends

Why People of Faith Should Support Equality for Gays and Lesbians

The Interfaith Alliance, a nationwide organization with members from more than 50 denominations and communities of faith, formally announced in September its endorsement of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. This move came after serious analysis of the bill's objectives, and after considering the moral responsibility of people of faith to actively support civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. Herbert D. Valentine, founding president of The Interfaith Alliance, explains some of the process that led to this critical show of support.

IN 1996, RALPH REED, THEN EXECUTIVE director of the Christian Coalition, made a public apology. He said that most of the people who make up the Christian Coalition stood on the sidelines of the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. While thousands of people were maimed or murdered, while hundreds of churches were bombed or burned, while the religious and political demagogues told America that God supported segregation of the races, they stood silent. That was wrong, Reed said. He is sorry.

In the 1970s, the civil rights struggle added to its focus the promotion of equal rights for women. As millions of American women fought for equal pay and equal opportunities, they, too, found religious political extremists blocking their path.

Today, the civil rights struggle continues, not only for African Americans, women, the disabled and other ethnic minorities but for lesbians and gay men. So it should come as no surprise that the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council and other political religious extremist organizations are trying to block the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Just as they did with the civil rights bills of the 1960s and the Equal Rights Amendment of the 1970s, the religious right has denounced ENDA as a threat to "traditional family values." They claim that ENDA would place immorality on the same footing as morality and force some communities of faith to accept behavior and activities that run counter to their religious beliefs. They also assert that ENDA equates sexual orientation with race and gender, thereby weakening the civil rights of women and African Americans.

MAKING A POINT: Greg Lebel, interim executive director of The Interfaith Alliance, talks about ENDA.

None of these claims are true. ENDA does not affect heterosexual families, it is not a proclamation about morality and it does not force any community of faith to change its present beliefs about sexual behavior. Rather, ENDA strengthens civil rights by extending them to those who currently suffer legal discrimination in the workplace.

On ENDA, as on so many subjects, Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson and James Dobson — head of another political religious group, Focus on the Family — do not speak for all people of faith. They do not even speak for a majority of Christians. Recent polling by the Human Rights Campaign shows that 70 percent of Christians believe that "gays and lesbians should be protected from discrimination in the workplace." Furthermore, 63 percent of all Christians favor passage of "a bill which would extend current civil rights protections in the workplace to cover gays and lesbians." Clearly, the Christian Coalition is out of step with a majority of Christians; Focus on the Family needs to focus on the facts.

The simple truth is that the vast majority of Christians and other people of faith believe in fairness and equality, and therefore support civil rights for all Americans. Whatever their particular views on homosexuality, most people of faith believe that no group of citizens should be singled out for legal discrimination, and no American should be treated unfairly in the workplace. That's why the majority of people of faith reject the gay-bashing rhetoric of the extreme right and support ENDA.

That is also why The Interfaith Alliance has endorsed ENDA. The alliance is a nonpartisan grassroots organization that promotes the positive role of religion in American society and provides people of faith with a mainstream alternative to political-religious extremism. As a nationwide organization with members from more than 50 denominations and communities of faith, The Interfaith Alliance has a strong commitment to diversity and tolerance. Our shared religious values compel us to affirm the dignity and worth of all human beings, whatever their race, sex, religion or sexual orientation.

The decision to endorse ENDA was made by The Interfaith Alliance board of directors. As a coalition of diverse people of faith, we have our differences on a number of issues — including homosexuality. But we are absolutely united in our firm commitment to civil rights for all Americans. We cannot stand by silently and allow members of the gay community, or any group, to face discrimination in the workplace. Nor can we allow religious political extremists to speak on our behalf. That is why we at The Interfaith Alliance join with people of faith across America and proudly endorse ENDA. ■

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MM8HQ3

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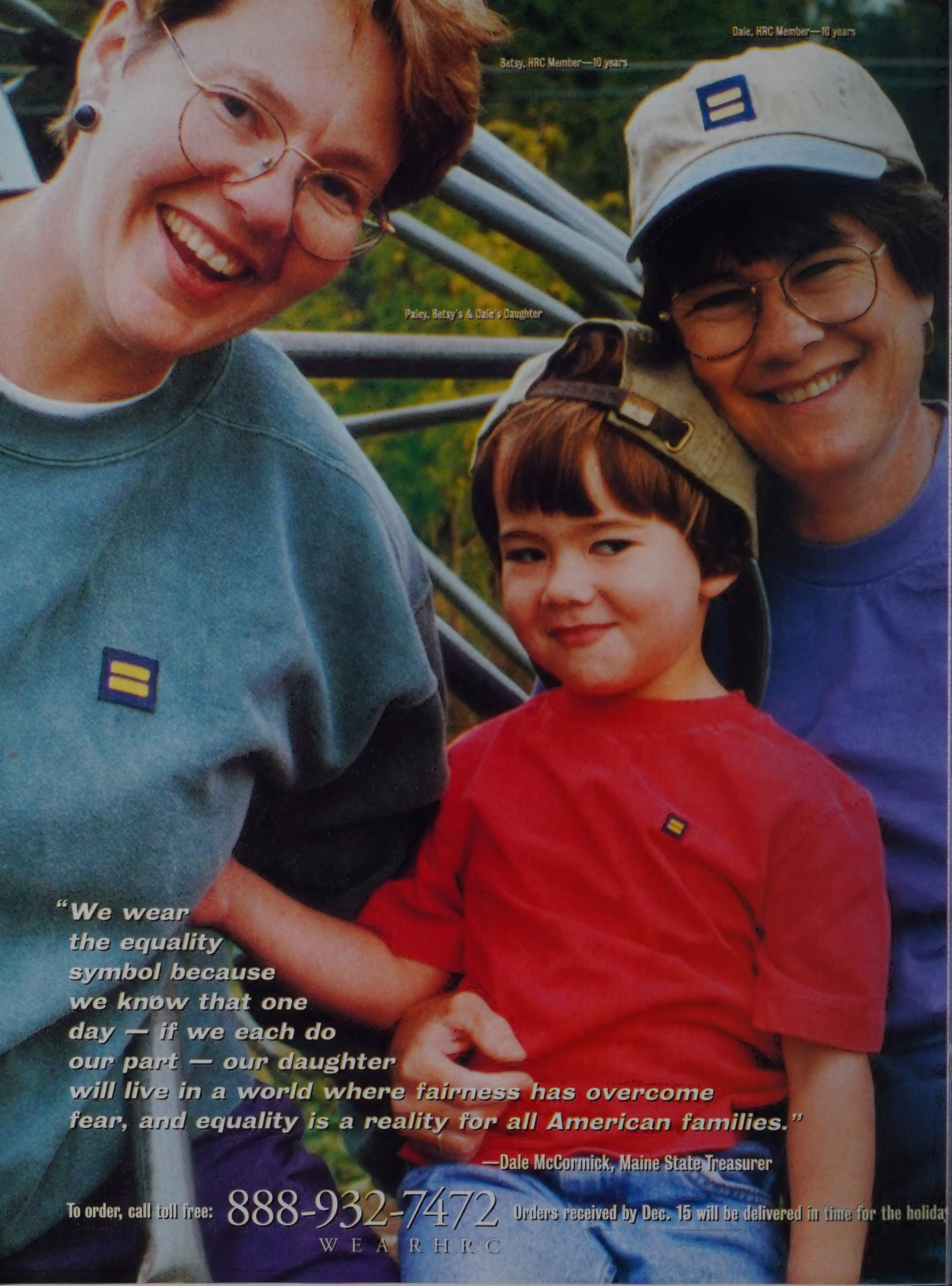
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"We wear the equality symbol because we know that one day — if we each do our part — our daughter will live in a world where fairness has overcome fear, and equality is a reality for all American families."
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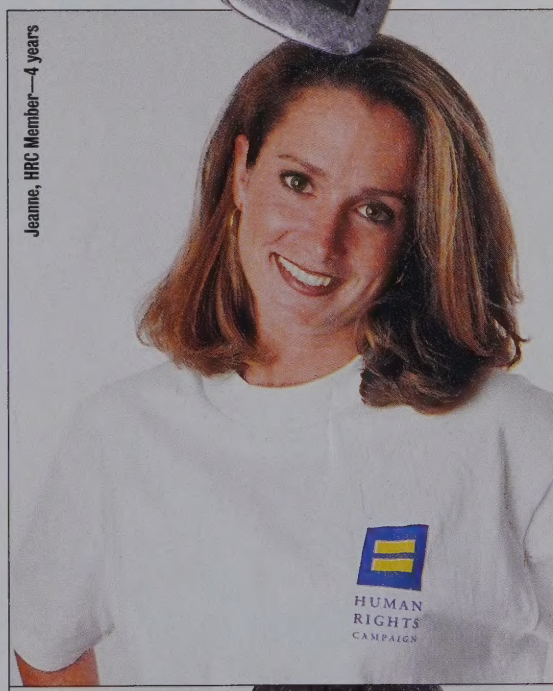
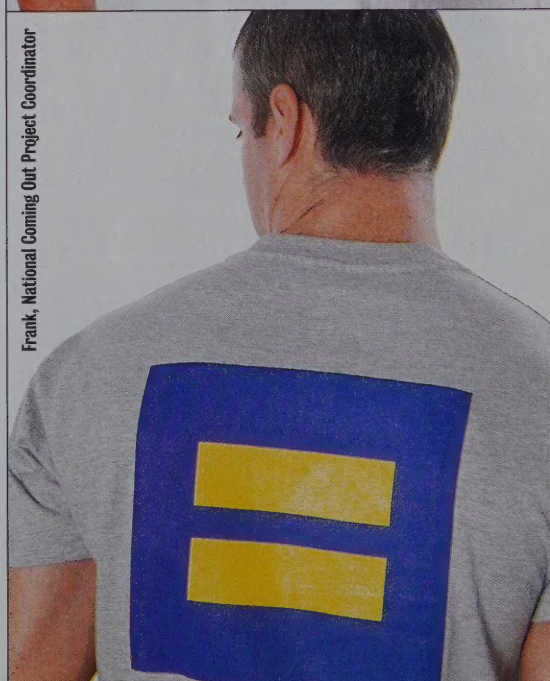


Jeanne, HRC Member—4 years



Frank, National Coming Out Project Coordinator

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Former HRC National Coming Out Project Spokesperson
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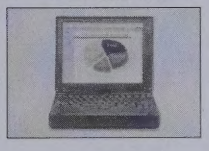

Membership has rewards.

And what better way to reward a friend, co-worker, family member or loved one than with the opportunity to make equality a reality? One of the best ways to do that is to enlist people in your life as new members of the Human Rights Campaign and get a chance to win cool prizes, too! With so many of our opponents outnumbering us in dollars and members, your participation can multiply the power – *and rewards* – of membership for all of us. Call 800-777-4273 for your Sweepstakes kit and official rules, and to find out more about HRC's One-In-A-Million campaign, or sign up a new member immediately by using the other side of this card and mail it in today.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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Payment for my contribuion will be made by

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Political Powerhouse

PAC and Legislative Departments Merge

The Human Rights Campaign has consolidated its legislative staff and political action committee into a single political department under the direction of Winnie Stachelberg, who has been promoted to political director.

"The most effective PAC is one that's linked to a legislative team," HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said in announcing the merger. "By placing both areas under Winnie Stachelberg's capable leadership, we will be able to maximize our strength on Capitol Hill and in congressional campaigns."

The reorganization completes a process that was begun at the beginning of 1997, shortly after Stachelberg was named legislative director and Kevin Layton was promoted to PAC director. Layton, who became an attorney during the 10 years he has spent at HRC, becomes HRC's legislative counsel. Susanne Salkind has been promoted to senior PAC manager, in recognition of her tremendous work in the 1995-6 campaign season.

"This merger puts HRC where we need to be for the House and Senate elections in 1998," Stachelberg says. "Kevin Layton and Susanne Salkind grew HRC's PAC into one of the largest and most successful political action committees in Washington, with a budget of more than $1 million and an 83 percent success rate. This reputation will be an invaluable tool as we do our legislative work in Congress."

The two divisions had been unified in a single department during the last election cycle. But because of staff changes, HRC temporarily split the two until the legislative team could be brought back up to full strength. With the recent hiring of two new senior policy advocates in 1997, HRC's legislative team — the largest of any gay advocacy organization — is again complete, and already racking up impressive victories on Capitol Hill.

Last March, HRC hired Seth Kilbourn, who had been working at the federal Department of Health and Human Services for the agency that administers the Ryan White CARE Act. Stachelberg was impressed by Kilbourn's work as a legislative fellow assisting Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., on AIDS policy issues. At HRC, Kilbourn is focusing on health care issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and medical privacy. He has already led HRC's successful fight to stop federal budget negotiators from placing a per-capita cap on Medicaid benefits, a proposal that would have unduly harmed people living with HIV and AIDS.

In August, HRC hired Tracey St. Pierre to lobby on a broad range of issues, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, hate crimes legislative reform and proper enforcement of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy prohibiting gays from serving openly in the military. St. Pierre was a senior aide to Rep. Charles Canady, a Florida Republican. Before that, she was an assistant to then-Vice President Dan Quayle's deputy chief of staff. She has also worked for GOP Reps. John Doolittle of California and Donald "Buz" Lukens of Ohio.

These two join the ranks of HRC's other seasoned lobbyists: Nancy Buermeyer, a senior policy advocate who is leading the fight for ENDA and is HRC's liaison with the transgendered community, and Kris Pratt, recently promoted to senior policy advocate, who is HRC's resident expert on hate crimes and who tracks the work of religious political extremist organizations.

"It's a privilege to be able to work with advocates of this caliber, and a testament to HRC's reputation that we can attract and keep such talent," says Stachelberg. "HRC is well-positioned to continue the proactive work embodied in ENDA, hate crimes prevention and the federal appropriations process, and the reactive work we have historically been forced into by opponents of lesbian and gay equality." ■

***Political Director Winnie Stachelberg**, far right, listens as her political team maps strategy. Other members are (l-r): Kris Pratt; Susanne Salkind; Seth Kilbourn; Nancy Buermeyer; and Tracey St. Pierre.*

A Question o

Are We Chasing the Holy G

IF THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS conference in Vancouver, Canada, in 1996 was a moment of celebration for the HIV/AIDS community, one year later we have yet to recover from the euphoria that resulted from that meeting. One of the greatest fears within the HIV prevention community was that the hype and hope of Vancouver, of triple combination therapy as the cure, would potentially inextricably damage both support for and the maintenance of HIV prevention efforts across the United States.

Given recent data about increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases for gay men of all ages and all colors on the West Coast and the alleged increase in risky sexual behavior by more seronegative gay and bisexual men, it appears that we are realizing one of our greatest fears. Several prominent HIV prevention advocates warned of the dangers of calling off the war, but it appears that these calls fell on deaf ears.

For us, calling off the war meant, and still means, relaxing our efforts to support and maintain effective, scientifically sound and community-based HIV prevention efforts. Practically speaking, it feels that we as a community are calling off the war because of the breakthroughs in treatments, the advent of triple combination therapy, and the success in reducing both AIDS deaths and AIDS incidence. Whether we meant to or not, we have announced, erroneously and prematurely, that HIV disease is now chronic, manageable and, ultimately, curable.

A Culture of Reactive Health Care

Let's be clear — proclamations that irresponsibly state that we have a cure for HIV disease are dangerous. They convey the message that HIV infection is not such a bad event because the means for controlling it are readily available. This is the typical American solution to health — "Don't worry about infection. We have treatment."

However, our public health tradition points out that premature declarations about eradication and control of diseases that result from specific behaviors (which are changeable, but which take time and a serious investment of resources to change) only lead to the continuation of disease. Proclaiming cures while lacking complete data, especially if such pronouncements lead to less effective prevention, could be public health malpractice.

Americans' predilection for reactive rather than preventive health care seems always to prevail. We would rather treat disease — through surgery, chemotherapy, extensive and expensive procedures — than prevent it. We would rather treat head trauma than legislate helmets for motorcycle riders; we would rather treat lung cancer than sharply prohibit smoking and other tobacco use; we would rather treat gunshot wounds than pass gun control laws.

As with many diseases in the United States and worldwide, treatment is much more expensive than prevention. It is an indictment of our national priorities to realize that a little more than 1 percent of the annual federal defense budget would fund all the necessary programs to eliminate most new HIV infections in the United States; 2 percent of that amount would eliminate most new HIV infections in the world.

We have always had a cure for HIV at our disposal — well-funded prevention programs. Programs such as needle exchange, condom availability, good sex education, sound reproductive health activities, nonmedical STD prevention programs, accessible and readily available drug treatment — these are effective, proven and tested. Yet our deep-seated squeamishness about sex, sexuality, gender differences and drug use

Americans' predilection for reactive rather th

f Prevention

ail—or Chasing our Tails?

By Mike Shriver and Thomas J. Coates

paralyze us and allow the American HIV/AIDS epidemic to flourish amid growing data proving the effectiveness of HIV prevention programs.

One needs only to look at the rates of risk reductive behavior adopted by gay and bisexual men in the United States or at the needle sharing and needle exchanging practices of injection drug users in New York City to see that HIV prevention works. Then, one needs to look at the reality that federal legislation continues to prohibit us from enacting lifesaving and cost-saving HIV prevention efforts. We are more comfortable as a nation at giving someone a pill to treat them than keeping them safe, healthy and uninfected. We remain more comfortable with hiding behind "morality" than in supporting innovative, effective interventions that save lives, dollars and communities.

Prevention Is the Answer

The numbers, the facts, the problems and the promise all meld together and make us angry. We are angry that we continue to ignore revolutionary, effective and proven programs, namely good HIV prevention programs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tell us that there are 40,000 new infections annually in the United States. We are angry since the vast majority of these new infections could be averted. Drug treatment, sex education, access to sterile syringes and adequate health care would eliminate most of these new infections.

It is no mystery that even as successful as gay men have been in creating public will and pressure for HIV therapies and treatments, they have yet to mount a groundswell of activism for prevention. Perhaps this is because drugs and doctors are a "normal" part of life, what we grew up with, where we find comfort and a cure. The discussion has now turned to the right to access the new treatments. What about the need to be protected from HIV in the first place?

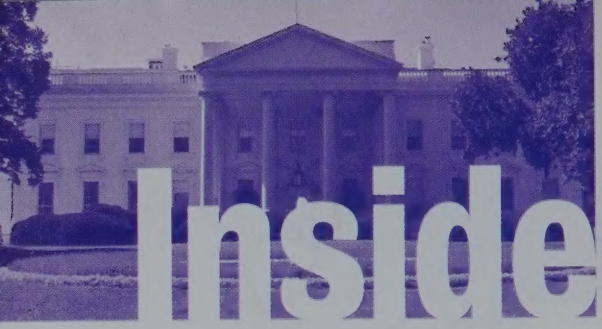
The core principle of HIV prevention is that human beings have inalienable rights, among them the right to be protected from undue harm. Australia, Thailand and Uganda have shown that pragmatic and effective HIV prevention programs can avert infections and stem the tide of the epidemic. And so, at this juncture of the HIV epidemic, it is critical that we step back and confront some very basic and very telling questions: Why don't the citizens of the United States exercise their right to be protected from this disease as well? Why doesn't the public health system fulfill its mandate and stop public health malpractice?

Is it because we are afraid that the promise of a cure is potentially flawed? Are we afraid of actually ending this epidemic once and for all? For those of us living with HIV disease, those of us who have lost countless friends and lovers and acquaintances, we have a right to be cured. We have a right to live. But we also, as individuals and as a society, have an ethical obligation to protect. Blindly running after the promise of a cure, despite tantalizing hope, will never be an excuse for abandoning HIV prevention. ■

Mike Shriver is the director of policy at the National Association of People with AIDS in Washington, D.C., and former health commissioner for San Francisco. Thomas J. Coates, Ph.D., is professor of medicine and director, AIDS Research Institute/Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California, San Francisco. Both are HIV+ gay men.

Photo: NAMES Project Foundation, Paul Margolies, photographer.

reventive health care seems always to prevail.



Inside Player

Richard Socarides Acts as a Conduit Between the Gay Community and the White House

By Kim I. Mills

ASK RICHARD SOCARIDES about the pictures on his office wall and you get a mini-tour of his professional life. There's President Clinton talking to AIDS czar Sandra Thurman as Socarides looks on. Another photo shows Vice President Gore talking to Socarides across his desk. Next to that, ex-Secretary of Labor Robert Reich shares a moment with Socarides, a former member of his staff.

"And do you know what this is?" He gestures proudly at a long framed sheet of paper with the names of the entire 104th U.S. Senate. "The roll call from the ENDA vote last year." Also in the frame is a letter from Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a lead sponsor of the bill to outlaw job discrimination against gays and lesbians. It missed Senate passage by only one vote.

Socarides is the White House liaison to the lesbian and gay community, a conduit between gay Americans and the Clinton administration — the first administration to consider this community important enough to merit its own voice in the White House. "As we have come to be recognized as an important political community, I think it is only natural that you would have someone work on these issues," Socarides explains. "And issues that are important to any particular president are the issues important to the people responsible for having elected him — or her, someday. It's a natural for this president, who saw in 1992, and again in 1996, an unprecedented outpouring of support from the gay and lesbian community."

Socarides is the second person in history, and the first openly gay one, to hold this post. The first, Marsha Scott, stepped aside in June 1996 to plan the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. She is currently a deputy assistant to the president and chief of staff for White House personnel. Socarides, who had been White House liaison for the Department of Labor, moved into the post when Scott left. (His official title is special assistant to the president and senior advisor for public liaison.)

While Scott's approach to the job centered on reaching out to the gay and lesbian community and rebuilding a relationship strained by the gays-in-the-military fiasco, Socarides has emphasized policy work. "I have tried to focus much more on the inside work and making sure that the range of opinions held by people in our community — and we're not monolithic — get heard and are represented whenever a policy issue affecting us as a community gets raised," he says.

For example, it was Socarides' inside-the-White-House activity that helped persuade Clinton to convene a White House conference on hate crimes that included bias crimes against gays and lesbians. "It really came out of discussions that started in February, after the inaugural," he recalled. "The president told a number of people that one of the things he wanted to work on were issues of race, diversity and tolerance."

By March, there was a minority issues working group in the White House, which met every week and included Socarides. In April, Socarides prepared a memo for the president proposing a hate crimes conference, which Clinton signed off on immediately. On June 7, Clinton used his weekly radio address to talk about the problem of bias crimes, including those aimed at lesbians and gays, and announced the summit, slated for Nov. 10. The Human Rights Campaign was to be one of the participants and Socarides was the White House staffer in charge.

Socarides, a native New Yorker, has a fairly typical background for a senior aide in the Clinton-Gore administration. After a career as a Wall Street attorney — he was a partner at the prestigious firm of Squadron, Ellenoff, Plesent and Lehrer — he left in 1991 to work for Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. He also worked on Geraldine Ferraro's unsuccessful U.S. Senate campaign, and in 1992, he joined the Clinton-Gore campaign.

Other advocates praise Socarides' accessibility and effectiveness. "He is not somebody who's going to bring out the band or shoot off fireworks on any issue but he's going to make sure the right people get together and talk to each other," says Dixon Osburn, co-executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

While Socarides has made his name in Washington as a fervent advocate for gay equality, his father, Dr. Charles Socarides of New York, has become somewhat infamous as one of the most outspoken advocates of so-called conversion therapy, a disputed psychological technique aimed at making gay people heterosexual and which HRC has dubbed psychological terrorism.

Richard Socarides and Maria Echaveste, director of public liaison, meet with President Clinton on a regular basis.

Socarides' goals for Clinton's second term are pragmatic. He is hopeful that the Senate will vote again in 1998 on ENDA — "and that it turns out the way we want it." He promises that by the end of 1997, there will be more appointments of openly gay people to Clinton's administration in the first year of his second term than in his entire first term.

Asked what he considers his greatest achievement so far as liaison to the gay community, Socarides is thoughtful. "I think in many ways, it's way too soon to talk about achievements," he says. "I think that's probably best done with the benefit of at least a little hindsight. But I'm certainly pleased that we've kept the White House a very open and inclusive place for gays and lesbians. And I'm very optimistic about the prospects for ENDA." ■

MAKING REPARATIONS

Groundbreaking Resolution Reaffirms Homosexuality No Mental Disorder

THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S Council of Representatives passed a resolution last August that questions the efficacy and ethics of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy — techniques aimed at changing gay people into heterosexuals. The resolution passed on a voice vote of the 110-member council, the APA's governing body, at the group's annual meeting in Chicago.

This resolution reaffirmed APA's longstanding position that homosexuality is not a mental disorder. It also called on all mental health professionals "to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientation." The APA passed its first resolution stating that homosexuality was not a mental disorder in 1975.

Linda Garnets, a Los Angeles psychologist and a member of the APA task force that drafted the resolution, has seen the results of therapies intended to change sexual orientation and describes them as "extremely destructive."

"These therapies are clearly based on the false notion that gay and lesbian people are sick and in need of a cure," she says. "They amplify any negative feelings the client may have about him- or herself."

What mental health professionals should be providing for people attempting to come to terms with their sexual orientation is a safe environment in which a person's true feelings can be explored and supported, she says. "What therapists should be doing is helping people work through any internalized homophobia, rather than playing on that homophobia."

The resolution articulates four basic principles regarding treatments to alter sexual orientation:

- Homosexuality is not a mental disorder, and the APA opposes all portrayals of lesbian, gay and bisexual people as mentally ill and in need of treatment due to their sexual orientation.
- Psychologists do not knowingly participate in or condone discriminatory practices with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients.
- Psychologists respect the rights of individuals, including lesbian, gay and bisexual clients, to privacy, confidentiality, self-determination and autonomy.
- Psychologists obtain appropriate informed consent to therapy in their work with gay, lesbian and bisexual clients.

The resolution breaks new ground for the mental health community by spelling out the appropriate treatment for the population, as well as treatments that would be inappropriate. "For those psychologists who are looking for guidance from their colleagues as to appropriate interventions with gay and lesbian clients, I think this resolution speaks volumes," says Garnets.

According to psychologists who helped craft the resolution, its main purpose was to educate both the profession and consumers about the responsibilities of mental health providers when dealing with gay and lesbian clients, and to educate potential clients about their rights when seeking mental health assistance. The APA is concerned about the small minority of mental health professionals who are aggressively marketing therapies that they claim "repair" homosexuality. According to the APA, such claims are not supported by science and are too often based on the practitioners' own prejudice.

"It is critical that APA as an association question the ethical basis of treatments to alter sexual orientation," says Douglas Haldeman, immediate past president of the APA's Society for the Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues. "These treatments appear to be an extension of society's prejudices against gay men and lesbians. Typically, the people who seek a therapist's help to become heterosexual are reacting to society's intense anti-gay hostility. Often, they have been pressured to change by their family or religious group."

The APA says the resolution did not go further because there are no hard data on the question of the harmfulness of the treatment; however, clinical experience suggests that such attempts to "repair" an individual's sexual orientation are likely to harm the individual's self-image and worsen the client's problems with self-esteem and shame if those problems already exist.

"These therapies are clearly based on the false notion that gay and lesbian people are sick and in need of a cure. ... They amplify any negative feelings the client may have about him- or herself."

The resolution further commits the APA, long a leader in the fight for equal rights for gays and lesbians, to continue to disseminate accurate information about sexual orientation and mental health, and about appropriate therapies for people dealing with issues of sexual orientation. Such dissemination, say the resolution's supporters, is the best way to counteract bias based in ignorance and prejudice about sexual orientation. ■

Annual Report

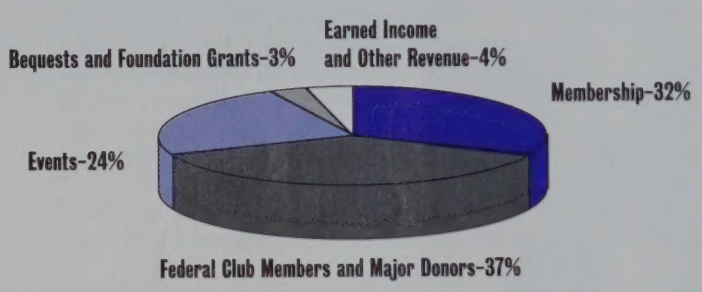
Closing the Books on HRC's Most Ambitious Fiscal Year

By Andre Alexander

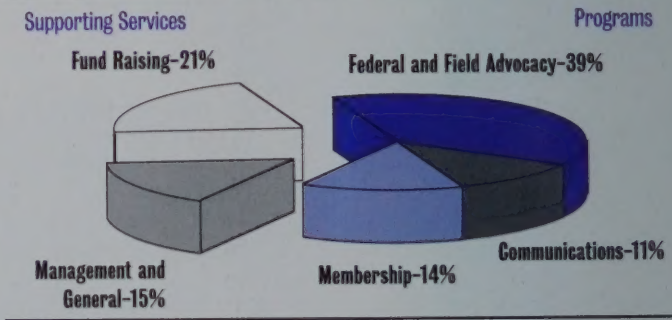
IN FISCAL 1996-97, THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN and the HRC Foundation continued their growth by achieving an all-time high of $11.2 million in combined revenue. HRC's Federal Club members and major donors provided the organization with the largest support base. Their generous contributions provided 37 percent of all income. The membership program remained constant, providing 33 percent of total revenue. And events held around the country continued to provide solid contributions by making up 24 percent of total support.

This was a challenging year for HRC on many fronts. From a financial standpoint, HRC worked hard — and successfully — to keep fund raising and general expenses to a minimum while increasing programs

Income FY 96/97



Expenses FY 96/97



expenditures during this ambitious election and legislative year. In the future, HRC will see further reductions in operating costs as the organization continues to automate and streamline operations.

From a programmatic viewpoint, fiscal 1996-97 presented many unique opportunities for HRC to further its mission. Because it was a presidential election year, and a year in which the first gay-supportive president in history would run for re-election, HRC undertook its most ambitious campaign projects ever, including:

- OutVote '96, the first national lesbian and gay political convention, which took place in Chicago, between the national party conventions;
- HRC's Youth College for Campaign Training, which brought together 25 young activists for top-notch political training, after which they were dispatched to key congressional campaigns across the United States;
- The California Project, HRC's first foray into state electoral politics, in which the organization worked with local activists to wrest the California Assembly out of the hands of extremists;
- HRC's first independent expenditure campaign, an effort to defeat Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. While unsuccessful, the campaign tapped into a network of activists who continue to work with HRC, and who are preparing for the next U.S. Senate race in North Carolina.
- Participation at both national political conventions, including setting up an "alternative communications" center at the GOP convention, and running a hospitality suite for the 100-plus openly gay delegates at the Democratic National Convention.

In addition, HRC's political action committee raised and contributed $1.1 million to candidates during its two-year cycle. A total of 83 percent of those candidates HRC supported won their races. Plus, HRC's National Coming Out Project centered its activities on the message: "You've Got the Power. Register. Vote." HRC's NCOP spokespeople Chastity Bono and Sean Sasser traversed the country, speaking at gay prides, HRC dinners and other events to drive that message home.

Other unique challenges presented themselves in Congress in the last fiscal year, not the least of which was the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). In revealing this as an extremist election-year ploy, HRC created several highly successful television commercials, one of which aired continuously on CNN during the GOP convention in San Diego.

In an effort to achieve something positive in the midst of the acrimonious debate on same-sex marriage, HRC devised a strategy to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to the anti-gay DOMA. And when it appeared that ENDA had an excellent chance of passage in the Senate, Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., called for a separate vote on each bill. While DOMA was a virtual shoo-in, ENDA missed passage in the Senate by a single vote, thanks to HRC's relentless lobbying and communications efforts — including another hard-hitting TV commercial.

Also in fiscal 1997, HRC continued to conduct groundbreaking public opinion research. One poll, by Lake Research Inc., was the first statistically valid national survey of self-identified lesbian and gay Americans. Another, conducted by Greenberg Research Inc., polled Americans' attitudes toward gay issues in the 1996 political campaigns. Both these surveys continue to inform the public dialogue on issues of import to the gay community.

At the beginning of calendar 1997, HRC began a complete reorganization of its field structure. HRC brought in Donna Red Wing as the new national field director to lead an effort that includes more grassroots training and outreach. This groundwork should reap enormous benefits for HRC and the movement toward lesbian and gay equality in the current fiscal year and beyond. ■

Alexander is HRC's financial manager.

Political Shorts

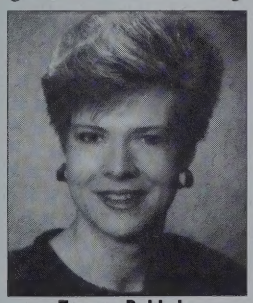
A Roundup of Election Activity Across the Nation

By Susanne Salkind

RISING STARS: ALTHOUGH IT'S AN off-year politically, there are a few open seats and special elections around the country where the Human Rights Campaign is active.

In Washington state, Pacific Lutheran University psychology professor Brian Baird, a Democrat, shot out of the blocks in his bid to win the Olympia-based district currently held by anti-gay Rep. Linda Smith, a Republican. Since Smith is seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Democratic Sen. Patty Murray (whom HRC has endorsed), Baird entered the House race as front-runner. With HRC's financial support last year, Baird — who has been an outstanding advocate of the gay and lesbian community, including opposing the Defense of Marriage Act — came within 2 percentage points of defeating Smith.

Wisconsin promises two other interesting open seat races. In Madison, openly lesbian State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat, is running for the seat of retiring Republican Rep. Scott Klug. Baldwin faces a highly competitive primary with two other well-known Democrats but all signs look good. As of the last reporting period, Baldwin had outraised all the other candidates in the race. She had $91,000 in her campaign coffer — $15,000 more than her closest competitor. At presstime, Baldwin was the only announced openly lesbian or gay candidate running for Congress in 1998.



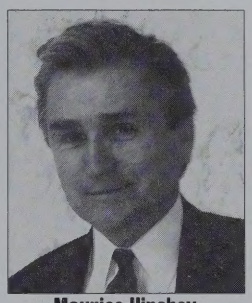
Tammy Baldwin

In southeastern Wisconsin, Lydia Spottswood will make her second run for Congress. In 1996, Spottswood was the Democratic nominee and HRC-endorsed candidate challenging Rep. Mark Neumann, a Republican with an anti-gay record. With Neumann challenging Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold in 1998, the seat will be open and provides an excellent opportunity to add a new House cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Isn't that Special! In New York, Pennsylvania and Texas, career changes for several House members created vacancies that will be filled by special elections. In New York, GOP Rep. Susan Molinari's surprise retirement last summer to become a TV news host kicked off a spirited contest for the Staten Island-based district. With the election set for Nov. 4, the Republican nominee, New York City Councilman Vito Fossella was in an unexpectedly close race with Democratic State Rep. Eric Vitaliano. In Pennsylvania, ENDA cosponsor and nine-term Democratic Rep. Thomas Foglietta was nominated by President Clinton to serve as ambassador to Italy. A heated primary is forming in this heavily Democratic district. Finally, deep in the heart of Texas, 19-term incumbent and ENDA cosponsor Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez has announced his plans to retire. The large Democratic pack of prospective candidates includes Gonzalez's son, U.S. District Judge Charlie Gonzalez; State Rep. Christine Hernandez; Bexar County Democratic Party Chair Walter Martinez; and ex-City Councilwoman Maria Berriozabal. This district has a good shot at producing a new ENDA cosponsor.

Onward Christian Soldiers? During the Christian Coalition's annual Road to Victory conference, chairman Pat Robertson rallied delegates around their No. 1 priority: Taking the White House in 2000. Prospective GOP candidates swarmed the convention, including former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, Sen. John Ashcroft of Missouri, multimillionaire Steve Forbes, House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, Rep. John Kasich of Ohio, 1996 vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp, and conservative talk show host Alan Keyes. Forbes wowed conventiongoers with an impassioned commitment to be a champion of the anti-choice movement and "traditional family values."

Career Move: Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry has announced his plans to challenge Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a Democrat who represents Binghamton, N.Y. Terry — an anti-abortion zealot who was jailed for contempt after a follower thrust a fetus at Bill Clinton in 1992 — is encouraging some of the most extreme abortion opponents around the country to run for Congress and focus attention on the issue.



Maurice Hinchey

Reed-Doubling His Efforts: Ralph Reed, who retired as executive director of the Christian Coalition, has been busy selecting clients for his new campaign consulting firm, Century Strategies, based in Georgia. With his reputation as a political whiz kid, Reed hasn't had to do much to drum up business. Rather, he is picking and choosing from among the many political hopefuls who believe he can make election-year magic for anyone he represents. So far, his clients include Anaheim, Calif., City Councilman Bob Zemel, a Republican who is challenging Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez. An ENDA cosponsor, Sanchez defeated anti-gay Rep. Bob Dornan by 984 votes in 1996, an election that was being investigated by a congressional committee.

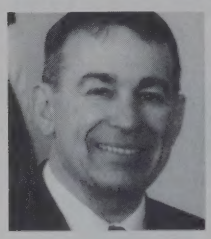
Reed will also advise Republican Bob Kilbanks, a real estate agent who lost a House race in 1996, who will be challenging Democratic Rep. Paul McHale of eastern Pennsylvania. And Reed is reportedly considering taking on Sen. Richard Shelby, an Alabama Republican. Shelby switched parties in 1994 after the GOP takeover of Congress that year. ■

Salkind is senior manager of HRC's political action committee.

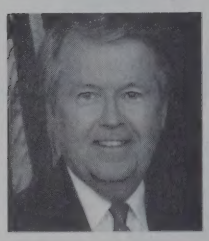
The Halls of Fame & Shame

FAME Supporting Equality, Standing Up to Discrimination and Fighting AIDS

New York Democratic **Rep. Charles Schumer**, for introducing a bill, H.R. 2256, to ensure that states do not require registration of people convicted of an offense that involves consensual sexual activity between adults. The bill is aimed at making sure that the nationwide "Megan's Law" — requiring violent and repeat sex offenders to register with law enforcement authorities — does not apply to gay, lesbian and heterosexual Americans who have been convicted under archaic sodomy laws. Schumer offered a similar measure as an amendment to a bill in the House Judiciary Committee, but it failed on a party-line vote.



Rep. Greg Ganske of Iowa, who, along with fellow GOP Reps. Nancy Johnson of Connecticut and Mark Foley of Florida, co-signed a letter urging members to vote against an amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill that removed Secretary Donna Shalala's authority to allow federal funds to be used in needle exchange programs. Although needle exchange programs have been shown to reduce HIV transmission while not increasing illegal drug use, and are supported by groups such as the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the amendment passed, 266-158. Ganske, a medical doctor, urged members to listen to science, not politics, during debate on the House floor.



Wisconsin **Rep. Jay Johnson**, for taking the extra step and not only agreeing to cosponsor ENDA but putting out a press release about it. "I firmly believe that every worker should be judged solely on his or her ability to perform their job," Johnson, a freshman Democrat, said in the release. "People who work hard, pay their taxes and contribute to the economic well-being of our nation should not be kept from leading productive and responsible lives, or live in fear of losing their jobs."

SHAME Promoting Anti-Gay Laws and Remaining Out of Step With America

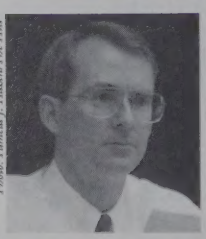
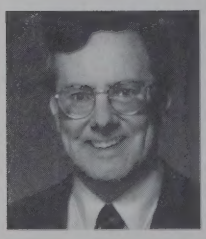
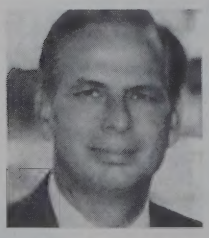


Photo: Pamela J. Hazen/The Hill

Rep. Bob Inglis, R–S.C., for an ignorant and misguided proposal to siphon federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's AIDS prevention funds to the reactionary Parents and Friends of Ex-gays, or PFOX. "I believe the focus [on AIDS prevention] should be changed to personal responsibility on the part of those infected," Inglis said. "I am specifically concerned about the viability of groups such as PFOX. ... No one has to be gay and enter its subculture; instead, they can be heterosexual or live a life of abstinence." PFOX is a fringe group that tries to encourage men and women "to leave the gay lifestyle." Inglis plans to run for the Senate in 1998 against Democratic incumbent Sen. Ernest Hollings, a supporter of ENDA.



Steve Forbes, Republican presidential candidate in 1996, and probably in 2000, for touting his support of one political religious extremist group — the Promise Keepers — in front other another — the Christian Coalition. Forbes spoke at the National Press Club when Donald Hodel, new executive director of the Christian Coalition, announced his group's agenda. Forbes also spoke fervently in favor of "traditional family values" at the Christian Coalition's annual conference in September. The Christian Coalition, which was a main supporter of the Defense of Marriage Act, is also virulently opposed to ENDA.



Rep. Gene Green, a Texas Democrat, for failing to cosponsor ENDA so far this Congress. Green was an ENDA cosponsor during the 104th Congress, and is the only member who cosponsored the bill last year who has not yet done so this Congress. Green's office has not given any reason for his lack of cosponsorship.

Events

save the date!

To purchase tickets to any HRC dinner, please call Box Office Tickets Inc. at 1-800-494-TIXS(8497). ◆ Hours are 10A.M. to 7P.M. EST, seven days a week.

Dallas, Nov. 22. ◆ Co-Chairs: Buddy Mullino, Jan Vaughn Mock. ◆ Keynote speaker: Poet Maya Angelou. Special guest: HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. ◆ For information, 972-733-9200.

San Antonio, Nov. 22. "Out on the Town." ◆ Co-chairs: Mark Board, Cecilia Stark. ◆ Marriott River Center. ◆ Keynote speaker: AIDS activitist Mary Fisher. ◆ For information, 210/496-2397.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 31. ◆ For information, call Box Office Tickets Inc. 800-494-8497.

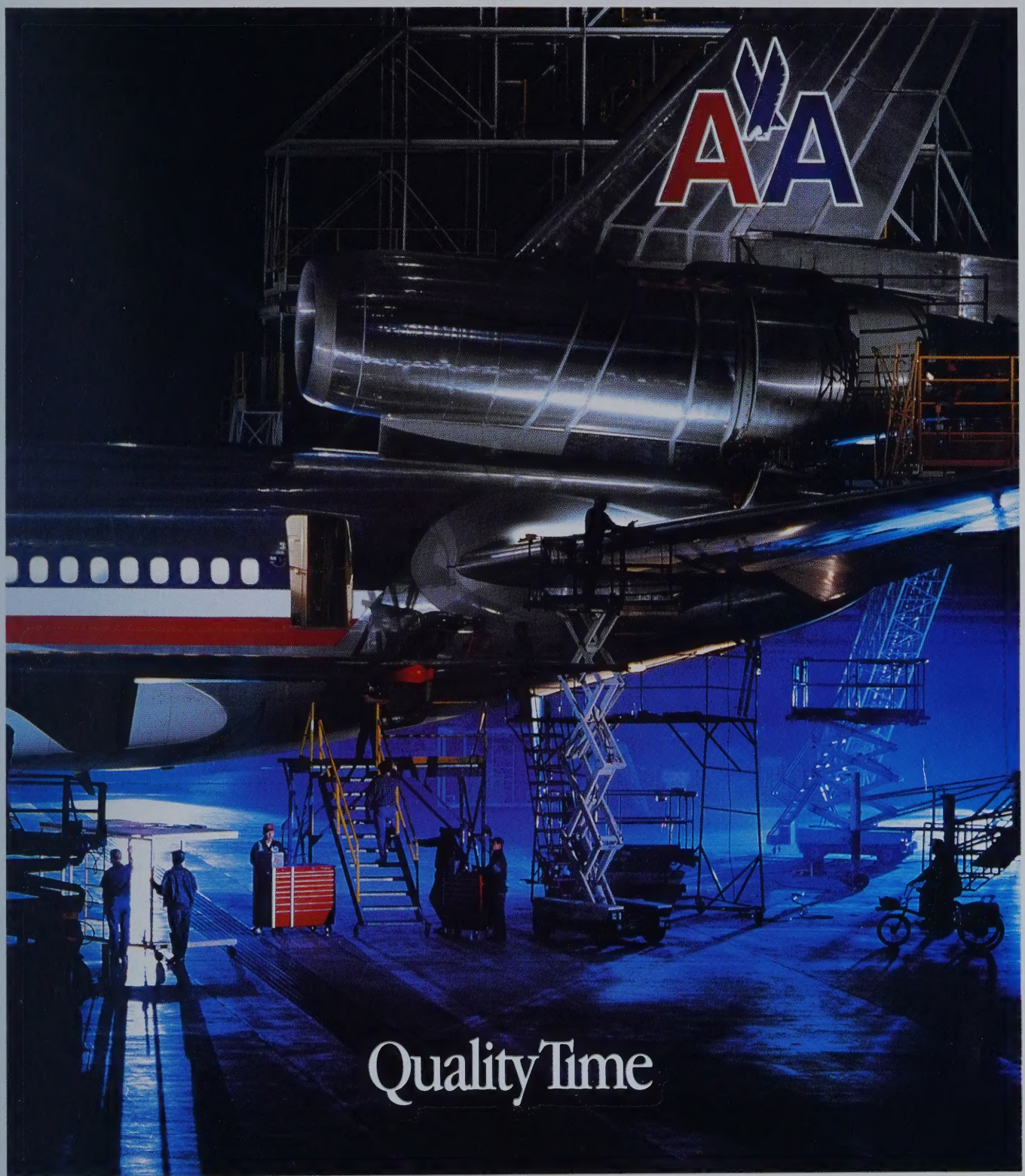
Los Angeles, Feb. 8. ◆ Co-chairs: Gwen Baba and Bob Mahlowitz. ◆ Universal City Hilton. ◆ For information, call Box Office Tickets Inc. 800-494-8497.

North Carolina, Feb. 14. ◆ Co-chairs: Rick Hill, Carolyn Dunn. ◆ Embassy Suites Hotel in the Raleigh metro area. ◆ For information, call Box Office Tickets Inc. 800-494-8497.

Houston, Feb. 14. ◆ Co-chair: Brad Smith. ◆ Wyndham Warwick Hotel. ◆ Keynote speaker: AIDS activist Mary Fisher. ◆ For information, call Box Office Tickets Inc. 800-494-8497.

Denver, Feb. 21. "Scenes from a Movement." ◆ Co-chairs: John Kayser, Becky Rudolf. ◆ Colorado Convention Center. ◆ For information, call Box Office Tickets Inc. 800-494-8497.

For more information on all events, remember to check our website at http://www.hrc.org



This is the part of the flight you never see. The 11 man-hours of maintenance we perform on the ground for every hour the plane is in the air. Multiply that by the over 600 aircraft we operate and, in terms of time, it adds up to quite an investment. Also, our pilots undergo long days of classroom and flight simulator training annually. And our flight attendants participate in refresher courses in inflight service throughout the year. At American Airlines and American Eagle®, we figure the hours we put in are well worth it. Because from the dependability of our planes to the caliber of our people, we're committed to delivering quality. And quality takes time.

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It can, but it has a price—a small one. For less than you might spend on your next pair of jeans, you can join the Human Rights Campaign. We are your voice in Washington D.C., working to create laws, defeat hateful agendas, and build communities where we can all live as equals. As a member, you'll help make America a place where it's safe to come out.

E-mail us at: hrc@hrc.org. Look up our website at http://www.hrc.org

Join the Human Rights Campaign. Call 1-800-777-4723.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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